

2 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
 THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
 SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Mediterranean Bureau - April 1974

I. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial - Monitorial

1. The focus of editorial activity during the month was on the efforts to bring about a disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria, the political instability and unrest within Israel, and the efforts of Egypt to restructure its relations with the super-powers and rebuild internally. In many wide-ranging interviews and speeches Egyptian President as-Sadat expounded on these efforts, accounting for a significant share of the more than half a million words of Arabic copy that was produced -- the highest Arabic production since May 1970. Less important but certainly significant were the growing conflict between Egypt and Libya, touched off by the incident at the Cairo Military Technical College, and the fighting between Kurds and Iraqis. The clandestine "Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan," which we located on 2 April, carried daily reports on the fighting as well as numerous commentaries on it.

2. We asked the Embassy [redacted] to make intensive efforts STAT to contact Persian monitor-applicant [redacted] regarding his expected STAT EOD date. The Embassy succeeded in determining that [redacted] STAT had left the country without leaving a forwarding address. We are therefore resuming our campaign to recruit a Persian monitor, with advertisements [redacted] press and with requests for assistance STAT STAT [redacted]

3. With Headquarters concurrence we asked [redacted] to STAT begin recruiting for our two remaining associate editor positions.

B. Cruising

1. We discontinued cruising efforts directed toward intercepting facsimile transmissions upon the completion of the sampling of known transmissions. Final evaluation of the value of these intercepts is awaited from Headquarters.

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2. Much of the cruising effort during the month supported operational needs in covering events in Ethiopia and Lisbon. Several Addis Ababa TDM commercial circuits were checked for press material and a number of press intercepts were filed. A regularly scheduled TDM transmission from Lisbon was identified and data supplied to [redacted] bureaus in view of our lack of Portuguese capability.

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C. Communications

In talks with CYTA we learned that the corporation was ahead of schedule in its installation of a new TELEX switch that will greatly expand the [redacted] capacity. It now appears the switch will be STAT operational in July. It seems to offer a low-cost backup for the bureau's primary Autodin communications. We also learned of the possibility that rates for our leased [redacted] circuit may be reduced STAT by approximately one-third. Indications of the possibility of a DCA satellite linkup with Ft. Detrick from [redacted] were passed STAT to Chief, Operations for analysis and action.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Retired employees [redacted] died in April. The bureau assisted their widows in preparing the necessary Civil Service Commission annuitant survivor forms.

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2. On 24 April the bureau submitted to Headquarters revised SF 1190 forms seeking an increase in staff housing allowances. This interim submission reflects an 85 percent increase in electricity rates and a 38 percent increase in the cost of bottled gas.

3. Further upward movement in the [redacted] cost-of-living index STAT during March makes it certain that at least a 6.6 percent pay adjustment will be announced during the third week of May by the government. Unless the index stabilizes during April, the adjustment will amount to 9.9 percent.

4. Chief Engineer, [redacted] traveled to Beirut on 28 Apr STAT for routine surgery at the American University Hospital.

B. Building and Grounds

An A & E contract with [redacted] Architects, for the STAT bureau renovation project, was negotiated early in the month by Office of Logistics representative [redacted] and signed by STAT

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the bureau chief on 24 April. The contract totals [redacted] STAT
[redacted] and covers renovation of the operations building, including STAT
central air conditioning, and modernization of portions of the two STAT
residences.

Except for the air conditioning design, the drawings and specifications are expected to be completed by early June, so that bids on the work to be done can be solicited before the end of the fiscal year.

III. VISITS

[redacted] STAT

2. [redacted] Administrative Officer STAT
and Telecommunications Officer respectively or the KMO follow-on group, visited the bureau 4 April for orientation and briefing.

[redacted] STAT

Chief, Mediterranean Bureau

Attachments:

Operations Attachment, including
Monthly Production Report (1)

OPERATIONS ATTACHMENT TO MEDITERRANEAN BUREAU
MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 1974

A. Monitor production by language for April 1974 (previous month's figure in brackets):

| <u>LANGUAGE</u> | <u>RADIO MONITORING</u> | <u>PRESS SERVICE MONITORING</u> | <u>PUBLICATIONS EXPLOITATIONS</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Arabic | 246,100 (225,500) | 192,800 (211,400) | 65,700 (49,800) | 504,600 (486,700) |
| Hebrew | 62,200 (52,400) | --- | (---) | 66,000 (62,900) |
| Turkish | 36,600 (24,300) | --- | (---) | 11,800 (12,300) |
| Greek | 17,200 (11,400) | --- | (---) | 30,800 (26,800) |
| Persian | 43,900 (46,700) | --- | (---) | 1,600 (2,900) |
| Russian | 6,700 (9,800) | 800 (1,000) | 34,400 (21,700) | 41,900 (32,500) |
| English | 11,600 (7,300) | 22,800 (21,000) | 5,400 (9,000) | 39,800 (37,300) |
| Ukrainian | 1,900 (600) | --- | (---) | 4,200 (---) |
| Uighur | 1,500 (4,000) | --- | (---) | 1,500 (4,000) |
| French | --- | (---) | 300 (300) | --- |
| Dari | --- | (---) | --- | (---) |
| Total Wordage | 427,700 (382,000) | 216,700 (233,700) | 157,700 (133,100) | 802,100 (748,800) |
| Lists, Reports, Surveys, Cruising | | | | 21,000 (21,900) |
| Admins & Miscellaneous | | | | 823,100 (770,700) |
| | | | | 30,900 (32,500) |
| | | | | 854,000 (803,200) |

B. Breakdown of press service monitoring wordage for April 1974.

| <u>LANGUAGE</u> | <u>AGENCY</u> | <u>WORDAGE</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Arabic | MENA--Cairo | 96,600 | |
| | MENA--Damascus | 22,700 | |
| | SANA | 10,600 | |
| | INA | 44,400 | |
| | ARNA | 15,000 | |
| | SUNA | 3,500 | 192,800 |
| English | AFP | 19,700 | |
| | DPA | 2,100 | |
| | REUTER | 800 | |
| | MENA--Cairo | 100 | |
| | TASS | 100 | 22,800 |
| French | AFP | 300 | 300 |
| Russian | TASS | 800 | 800 |
| | | | ----- |
| Total | | | 216,700 |

C. Communications Report

1. Gross daily traffic filed on Autodin circuit R-867 averaged 49,700 words compared with 45,600 in March. The heaviest load was 63,900 words on 3 April, the lightest 36,100 on 9 April.

2. The Autodin circuit R-867 was out 2.3 percent of the time (16.75 hours) compared with 2.9 percent (21.5 hours) in March. Extended outages occurred on 16 April (4.25 hours) and on 1 April (3.75 hours). Net traffic totalling 24,700 words for the month was transmitted to Headquarters [redacted]

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D. Monthly Production Report

1. Coverage (Priority 1 and 2)

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|---|------|
| a. Average daily hours of voice | 46.5 |
| b. Average daily hours of press service | 85.5 |
| c. Average daily hours of press (1/2 hour per paper) | 16.5 |

2. Production (English)

| | |
|--|-----|
| a. Average daily voice wordage | 387 |
| b. Average daily press service wordage | 760 |
| c. Average daily press | 180 |

3. Production

| | |
|--|--------|
| a. Average daily voice wordage | 12,006 |
| b. Average daily press service wordage | 6,463 |
| c. Average daily press | 5,077 |

4. Total Average Daily Publishable Wordage (2 plus 3) 24,873

5. Total daily average wordage of multipaper,
multilanguage and/or multisource roundups,
program summaries filed as a continuing
requirement; commentary list; cruising messages: 2,564

6. Total Daily Average Filed Wordage (4 plus 5) 27,437

7. Total Daily Average filed publishable items: 95

8. Total number of ETG Abstracts: 38

9. Total number of TRAP items: 5

E. Monitoring Operations--April 1974

1. In both quantity and importance President as-Sadat's utterances dominated the April file. These included as-Sadat's much publicized speech to the 10th Conference of the Egyptian Students Federation in Alexandria and his speech to the nation before the presentation of the new Egyptian Cabinet. He also gave lengthy interviews to DPA, DER STERN, the New York TIMES, and the Lebanese weekly AL-HAWADITH. Special efforts were made to procure AL-HAWADITH since it is not on the bureau's coverage. In addition to all this, the bureau also processed a lengthy MENA summary and then the text from AL-AHRAM of the "October Paper," which as-Sadat presented to the ASU Central Committee and the People's Assembly.

2. The interim report of the Agranat Committee, which investigated the Yom Kippur war failures, was issued in early April, and it set the stage for a broad shakeup in the IDF high command and indirectly led to Prime Minister Golda Meir's resignation. Reports on these developments as well as the subsequent nomination of Yizhaq Rabin to replace Meir and other political developments were handled expeditiously and filed at high precedence.

3. The bureau provided full coverage of Syrian President al-Asad's visit to the USSR. His activities and speeches as well as the final communique were processed from Damascus Radio and SANA, complementing the BBC coverage of this event. Cairo Radio reports were also processed to show the Cairo treatment of this event.

4. A special effort was made to process al-Asad's speech on Syrian National Day from Damascus television, which carried this speech hours ahead of the domestic radio service.

5. The fighting between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights continued unabated during the month, and the bureau filed a daily quota of high precedence reports from Damascus and Jerusalem radios.

6. Following the Fedayeen operation in the Israeli settlement of Qiryat Shemona, Palestinian radios and broadcasts--including those covered on an ad hoc basis--were put on priority coverage. Reports on and reactions to the operation from Palestinian and other Arab sources were filed expeditiously. Open watch was clamped on Beirut Radio and television following Israel's threats of retaliation. The bureau was thus able to provide prompt coverage of the Israeli attack on the Lebanese border villages.

7. On 2 April the bureau cruising monitors located the long-sought-for clandestine Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan Radio, which is on the air every day in Kurdish, Assyrian and Turkmen, as well as with a 1-hour program in Arabic, which the bureau now covers regularly, and a half-hour program in English, which it backstops. All processed material from this station is dropped to the American Embassy [redacted] The Iraqi Government's determination to implement its plan for self-rule for the Kurds, the proclaimed Kurdish opposition to this formula and the embers of tension between Iran and Iraq, despite UN efforts at reconciliation, produced a heavy file.

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8. The bureau filed the first report on the Libyan decision to relieve al-Qadhdhafi of his formal duties from SUNA, long before it was reported from any other source. Tripoli Radio was put on open watch and other Arabic transmitters were closely watched for reaction to this decision.

9. The incident at the Cairo Military Technical College provided several major items that appeared to show a continuing deterioration in Egyptian-Libyan relations, with al-Qadhdhafi being criticized by name in Egyptian media.

10. Developments in Iran also led to the production of considerable copy. In early April Teheran Radio carried a 70-minute interview with the shah by the Indian magazine BLITZ. Excerpts of topical passages were filed. Later in the month Teheran Radio carried a 60-minute recording of the shah's speech at the presentation of the new cabinet. The text of this was filed. At the end of the month Teheran Radio carried much reportage on Prime Minister Gandhi's visit.

11. Owing to the unstable situation in Ethiopia the bureau maintained coverage of TDM circuits from Addis Ababa and Nairobi REUTER throughout the month. A few items were filed, but the vast majority of items filed on Ethiopia came from Paris AFP.

12. The interruption of the inter-Cypriot talks, resulting from an apparent disagreement on the exact interpretation of the basis on which these were being conducted and the simultaneous suspension of deliberations between the two constitutional experts sent by Greece and Turkey to assist in these talks, as well as signs of tension between Greece and Turkey, exacerbated by differences over oil rights in the Aegean, required a close watch of Ankara, Athens and Nicosia radios, the clandestine Turkish-Cypriot stations beamed to Cyprus and of the press in the three countries. Other events that helped to enlarge the Cypriot file were the 13th AKEL Party Congress and the Cyprus Government's outlawing of the proenosis EOKA B organization following the resumption of violence among the Greek Cypriot population on the island.

13. The bureau assumed priority 3 coverage of the new Libyan-sponsored Arabic-language daily AS-SAFIR, which began publication in Beirut. The bureau has also assumed priority 3 coverage of the new Greek-language Nicosia weekly ELEVTHEROS LAOS, which is published by the Pan-Cyprian Farmer's Union Secretary General Khatziirakleous.

14. A two-take editorial report reviewing the numerous references in the Soviet regional press to the severe drought this year was filed during the month.

15. The Cairo-Moscow TASS TDM circuit was sampled during the month. The sampling indicated that this circuit carries material mainly from the Egyptian press and Cairo Radio. Reports on the content of this circuit were supplied to FGS, and it was put on ad hoc coverage during Secretary of State Kissinger's visit to the Middle East.

16. Cruising intercepts of numerous commercial TDM circuits were made during the month, and data on this were forwarded [redacted]

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